



Members of the news media, BLM project directors, the UDAF, Utah SITLA, DNR, Senator Hatch and Rep. Rob Bishop office representatives and others watched the aerial application of a mixture of range-suitable seed on lands burned in the Milford Flat Fire in Millard County near Cove Fort.

I-15 near
Cove Fort,
Utah



The Milford Flat Fire contributed to four automobile deaths due to blowing smoke and dust. Pollution from the fire contributed to 40 days of bad air in Utah and killed hundreds of wildlife and livestock. Ranchers are struggling to recover from the lost grazing lands and livestock.



126,000 acres being treated by air.

The Milford Flat Fire covered more than 350,000 acres in July, 2007. It is the state's largest fire in recorded history. 26,000 acres of private rangeland is being reseeded.



A combination of 10 different seeds are being applied to the ground. The seeds are just visible on the underside of the plane.



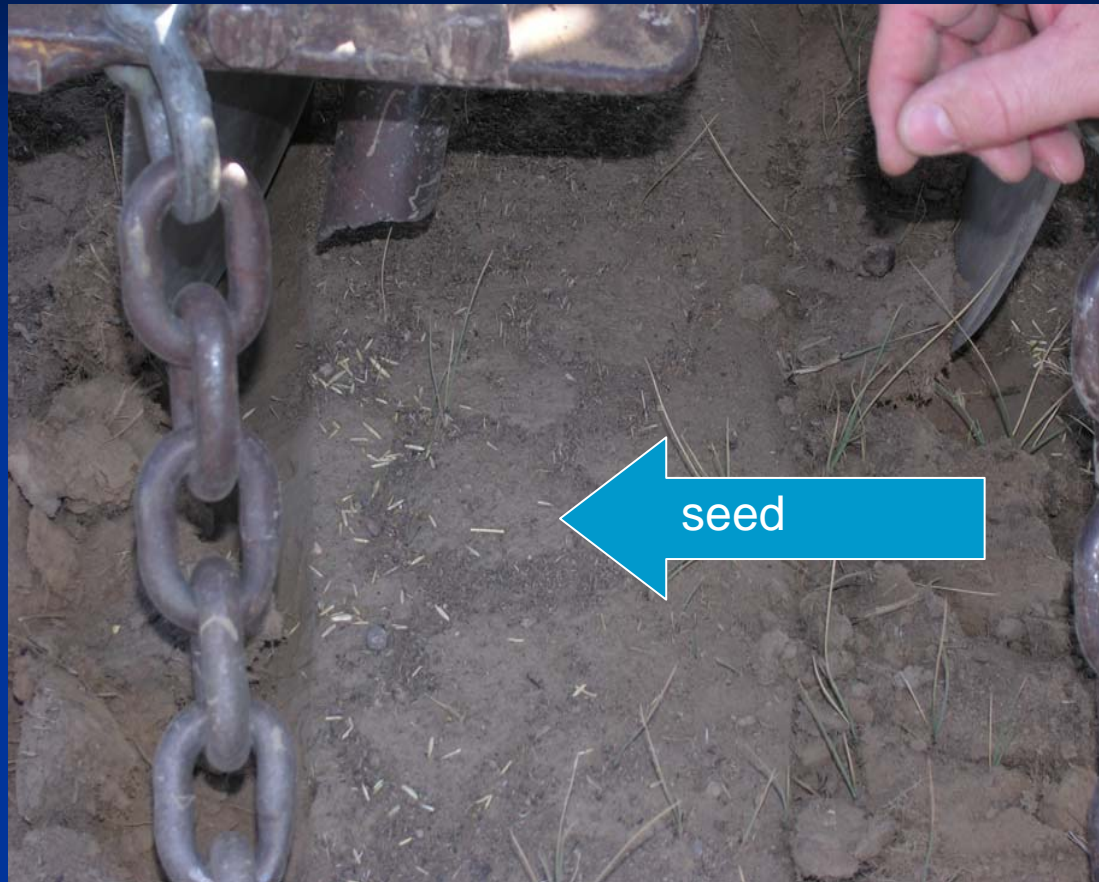
These dead pinion-juniper trees are being pulled down by a large chain pulled by this bulldozer. This action speed up their natural decay and collapse and add nutrients to the soil.



The chain also helps cover the seed with soil to help germination and protect the seed from being consumed by birds and other wildlife. Each link of the chain weighs 90 lbs. The total weight of the chain is 19,000 pounds.



One of 10 triple drills being used to plant seed on the ground. These drills and imprinters will cover about 33,000 acres.



The seeds drop from a storage bin onto the ground, where the small chain pulled along behind helps cover the seed for better germination and protection.



The seeding is intended to prevent soil erosion and dust storms that threaten public health and safety.



Left: BLM State Director, Selma Sierra; Utah Dept. of Natural Resources Executive Director, Mike Styler; Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Leonard Blackham answered questions about the project during the media day.



Cheating the cheatgrass

An example of how a mix of grasses such as forage kochia can prevent the spread of wild fire. The grass mixture on the left slowed the Milford Flat fire enough to prevent it from jumping the road and igniting the cheatgrass dominant land on the right. This strategy is part of Utah's war on cheatgrass. Much of the fire was fueled by cheatgrass.